

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 03756 01 OF 02 061529Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 SAM-01 /087 W

----- 087525

P R 061519Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7594

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 03756

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FR, FT

SUBJECT: FRENCH POLICY IN TFAI

1. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES OLIVIER STIRN DEFENDED BEFORE THE PRESS ON FEBRUARY 5 THE ASSAULT BY FRENCH TROOPS IN DJIBOUTI TO FREE SCHOOL BUS HELD BY SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT TERRORISTS AT LOYADA POST. STIRN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE PROBLEM FOR THE TFAI IS "TO HAVE A REAL INDEPENDENCE AND NOT TO CREATE A NEW HOT POINT (FOYER DE GUERRE) IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD."

2. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ABOUT A POSSIBLE ACCELERATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS, STIRN GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE TWO ASPECTS SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE LINKED. "IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF SPEED. A CERTAIN NUMBER OF GUARANTEES ARE NECESSARY FOR INDEPENDENCE TO BE REAL AND FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 03756 01 OF 02 061529Z

EXTERNAL PEACE AND CIVIL PEACE TO BE PRESERVED. IF THE

INCIDENTS AT LOYADA MAKE CERTAIN PERSONS REFLECT AND FACILITATE THE GUARANTEES, THEN PERHAPS WE WILL BE ABLE TO THINK THAT THESE EVENTS HAVE HAD A POSITIVE ASPECT." STIRN REFERRED TO THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND PRESIDENT OF THE TFAI COUNCIL ALI AREF AND INDICATED THAT NO CALENDAR HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS. STIRN CONCLUDED THAT IT IS ONLY "WHEN THE INDISPENSABLE GUARANTEES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE TERRITORY WILL BE ACQUIRED THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS. PERHAPS NOW EACH PERSON SEEING THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND ASSUMING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL FEEL IT IS TIME TO GIVE GUARANTEES MORE RAPIDLY; AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CONTENT WITH THAT."

3. IN BRIEF RADIO INTERVIEW SAME DAY, FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES SAID THE HIJACKING INCIDENT WAS OVER AS FAR AS THE FRENCH WERE CONCERNED. FRANCE WOULD SEE WHAT IT WOULD HAVE TO DO IF THIS WAS NOT SOMALIA'S VIEW. "...I BELIEVE THAT THE REPUTATION OF THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE BETTERED IF IT DID NOT FAVOR, OR IN ANY CASE IF IT HAD NOT GIVEN TACIT SUPPORT TO THE ACTION OF TERRORIST ELEMENTS. INDEPENDENCE MUST NOT LEAD TO ANNEXATION."

4. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD IN LAST FEW DAYS BY GOF OFFICIALS THAT A REFERENDUM WILL PROBABLY BE HELD AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, POSSIBLY BETWEEN ONE AND TWO YEARS FROM NOW. DOM/TOM SOURCES ALSO STATED SPECIFICALLY (QUAI LESS SO) THAT FRENCH GUARANTEES FOR TFAI EXTERNAL BORDERS WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATE, THOUGH INTERNAL SECURITY WOULD BE LEFT MAINLY TO LOCAL POLICE. GOF OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH GUARANTEES, SOMALIA WOULD, DESPITE PRESENT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 03756 02 OF 02 061529Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 SAM-01 /087 W

----- 087572

P R 061519Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7595

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 03756

PUBLIC DISAVOWALS, COVET AND EVENTUALLY BE TEMPTED TO ABSORB TFAI. SOMALIA'S MAIN HESITATION WOULD STEM FROM THE EXPECTED ETHIOPIAN REACTION AND THE DESIRE BY ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA TO AVOID ANY OVERTLY DESTABILIZING ACTION, WHICH COULD ALSO CONCEIVABLY INVOLVE POWERS OUTSIDE IMMEDIATE AREA.

5. COMMENT: THE DRAMATIC SCHOOL BUS INCIDENT, WHICH HAS BEEN HEAVILY PLAYED IN THE FRENCH MEDIA, MAY WELL SPEED UP THE INDEPENDENCE PROCESS. MOREOVER, SOMALIA MAY BE READY TO TAKE FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST FRENCH CITIZENS TO DRIVE THE FRENCH OUT. THE FRENCH PUBLIC HAS BEEN DEEPLY SHOCKED BY THE ENTIRE EPISODE, THE LOSS OF ONE CHILD'S LIFE AND ANOTHER STILL HELD HOSTAGE. THIS REACTION COULD UNDERCUT WHAT DETERMINATION STILL EXISTS IN THE GOF TO REMAIN IN THE TFAI
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 03756 02 OF 02 061529Z

UNTIL AN ORDERLY TRANSITION IS ARRANGED, AND MAKE IT WELL-NIGH IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOF TO TAKE THE RISKS THE MAINTENANCE OF A FRENCH BASE AT DJIBOUTI WOULD ENTAIL. AS THE SPANISH REACTED TOWARDS THE SAHARA, FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION MAY WELL CONCLUDE THAT THE TFAI IS NOT WORTH ANOTHER LIFE.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHILDREN, KIDNAPPING, TFAI, PRESS CONFERENCES, BORDER INCIDENTS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS03756
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0225
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacnaa.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH POLICY IN TFAI
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FR, FT, DJIBOUTI, (STIRN, OLIVER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006